

Amendments to the Specification.

The paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 28 was amended March 19, 2001. Applicants have been requested to cancel the amendatory material as follows:

The terms "TACI" and "TACI protein" are used interchangeably to define the TNF receptor disclosed by WO 98/39361 ~~and refer, among others, generally to a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2 or a homologous analog thereof.~~ TACI comprises an extracellular domain, a transmembrane domain, and a cytoplasmic domain.

The paragraph at page 5, beginning at line 31 was amended March 19, 2001. Applicants have been requested to cancel the amendatory material as follows:

"Fragments" of TACI encompass truncated amino acid sequences of the TACI protein that retain the biological ability to bind to TACI-L. An example of such a fragment is the extracellular domain. ~~One embodiment of the extracellular domain has the amino acid sequence of amino acids 1-166 of SEQ ID NO:2. In another embodiment of the extracellular domain, the domain has the amino acid sequence of amino acids 1-166 of SEQ ID NO:2 with one or more conservative substitutions.~~ Such fragments are identified in WO 98/39361, which is incorporated in this application in its entirety.

The paragraph at page 6, beginning at line 27 was amended March 19, 2001. Applicants have been requested to cancel the amendatory material as follows:

The terms "TACI-L" and "TACI ligand" are used interchangeably to define the member of the TNF ligand family disclosed by WO 98/18921 ~~and refer, among others, generally to a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4 or a homologous analog thereof.~~ TACI-L is also disclosed as "TL5" in EP 0869180A1 and as "63954" in WO 98/27114. The full-length TACI-L comprises an extracellular domain, a transmembrane domain, and a cytoplasmic domain. Although the exact location of the extracellular, transmembrane, and cytoplasmic domains may differ slightly due to different analytical criteria for identifying the functional domains, the range of amino acids 1 to 46 generally represents the intracellular domain; amino acids 47 to 72 represent the transmembrane domain, and amino acids 73-285, the extracellular domain.